



**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Before the Energy and Technology Committee**

*In support of* **Raised Bill 571 AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AUDITS**

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*Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. For more than twenty-five years, CFE has used law, science and education protect and preserve Connecticut's natural resources.*

CFE supports Raised Bill 571, which would establish programs to notify real estate purchasers of the results of energy audits and to recommend energy efficiency improvements.

The built environment has a profound impact on the natural world. In the U.S., buildings account for 37 percent of all energy use and consume 40 percent of raw material and 12 percent of fresh water supplies. They also account for 36 percent of the anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and 46 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions through the consumption of fossil fuel fired electricity.

Connecticut has a significant amount of older housing stock that falls well below modern standards for energy efficiency and that presents a real challenge to improving the energy profile of the state. Frequently building envelopes are not insulated, windows provide little thermal benefit, and heating and cooling systems do not perform optimally. These factors can significantly increase the operational expenses of a property, as well contributing to worsened air quality and climate change through increased combustion of fossil fuels.

The results of an energy audit and practical recommendations to improve the energy efficiency of a building are important information for any homeowner or potential homeowner to have.

Accordingly, CFE recommends adoption of Raised Bill 571 to establish programs to notify real estate purchasers of the results of energy audits and to recommend energy efficiency improvements to prospective purchasers.